Health & Happiness

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LOOK AT THIS MAN

A few weeks ago he was a stone under weight—thin—lacking in energy. Now he is no longer thin but well built, with pounds of healthy flesh, which makes him LOOK better and FEEL better.

IF YOU ARE THIN & SKINNY

You too can build up your body and put on pounds of healthy flesh if you take Vitafos, the famous body builder. Vitafos builds up both men and women. It makes thin, skinny men WELL BUILT & STRONG. It develops flat chested bony women giving them BEAUTIFULLY FORMED BODIES. With it you can gain health, strength and a better appearance.

Send now for a supply of Vitafos, and in a few weeks you will be a different person—no longer skinny—no longer weak, but stronger, well built and with a better appearance. Don't let any failure in the past stop you from taking Vitafos, for it is a REAL BODY BUILDER & cannot fail to give you the extra flesh you need.

Per bottle Rs. 5-50. Three bottles Rs. 15-50
Six bottles Rs. 30. Postage. etc., extra.

Read what Satisfied People Say

"I have gained 18 lbs. and my appearance has improved"-G. WESTON.

"I weighed only 7 stone when I took Vitafos and now after two months I weigh 9½ stones & feel stronger-" L. PHILLIPS.

Amazing Hair Discovery

Re-grows new hair on bald spots
Restores natural colour to grey hair

Do you suffer from falling hair and dandruff? Are bald patches or grey hair making you look older than you are? The amazing hair tonic Restora brings new hope to all, for it revives healthy hair growth by feeding and stimulating the hair roots giving them the missing elements of nutrition which is the real cause of falling hair, etc.,

Start using Restora and let your mirror prove results. Your hair will stop falling out, dandruff will go, bald spots will be gradually covered with new hair, and grey hair will get back its natural colour.

Per bottle Rs. 5. Three bottles Rs. 14. Postage, etc., extra.

The British Chemical Works Post Box No. 472 MADRAS-7

BIRTH

BEST QUALITY RUBBER PREVENTIVES

These rubber preventives are the **Best for Family Limitation** because they will not let you down by breaking during use, which often happens when cheap rubber preventives are bought. Further, we send you only **Fresh Stock** and all articles are carefully tested before despatch. So, get your requirements from us and be sure of satisfaction.

AMOUR superfine quality preventives. Specially made for men who want the best. They are extra thin and strong and so soft and fine that they are not felt in use. Will last extra long in hot climates. Guaranteed to be without holes and flaws and not to leak or split when used.
Extra special quality, per dozen Rs. 25, ½ dozen Rs. 13, ¼ dozen Rs. 7.

VELESTRA extra fine quality preventives for men. These are so thin, soft and fine that they are not felt in use. They will not leak or split as they are without holes or flaws.
Doz. Rs. 20, ½ doz. Rs. 11, ¼ doz. Rs. 6.

Neverrip Preventives for men. Good thin quality imported from England. Men who cannot afford the best will find these satisfactory. Dozen Rs. 12. ½ dozen Rs. 6-50.
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Grecian Caps for men. These caps are about 2½ inches long and they cover only the G. P. They allow natural union and yet prevent conception. Doz. Rs. 20, ½ doz. Rs. 11, ¼ doz. Rs. 6.

New Type Preventives for men have a special fitting at the end which is very effective. They are different from French ticklers. Doz. Rs. 25, ½ doz. Rs. 13, ¼ doz. Rs. 7.

F. T.s' For men. These have rubber ticklers at the end and are very popular with men. Doz. Rs. 20; ½ Doz. Rs. 11. ¼ doz. Rs. 6.

Crocodile Preventives for men. These are made with slight ridges like crocodile skin. They will not leak or break and can be washed many times. Superior quality. Doz. Rs. 30. ½ doz. Rs. 16. ¼ doz. Rs. 9.

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SPECIAL SAMPLE PACKET

of 10 different preventives for **Rs. 15.**

We give you here amazing value in this sample packet to prove that you will obtain better value and goods from us. The packet contains the following preventives.

2 Amoura	1 French Tickler
2 Velestra	1 Grecian Cap
1 New type f. 1.	2 Neverrips

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Full Privacy. Send value plus Rs. 1-50 postage, etc. (also bank commission if a cheque is sent) and we will be able to send the parcel without our name on it.

Bon Ami check pessary for women. Improved type. Recommended by birth control authorities because it absolutely prevents conception. Three sizes, new superior quality. Price Rs. 7-50 each

CONTROL

The British Chemical Works

Post Box No. 472 :: MADRAS 7, India.

198407

CURE SKIN ERUPTIONS THRO' THE BLOOD

ZEMRO
BLOOD MIXTURE

CURED THIS PERSON OF SKIN DISEASE AFTER

many ointments and blood cleansers had failed.

READ HIS TESTIMONIAL

Dear Sir,

I had suffered for five years with Eczema on my hands and had tried all kinds of ointments and blood tonics but they did not give me any relief

A friend remarked about the state of my hands one day, and asked me if I had tried Zemro Blood Mixture as it was very good

After three bottles of this blood mixture, my hands are clear of all the sores. I feel that I must recommend your blood tonic to all my friends as it has done for me that which no other tonic or ointment could do.

R. N. BANERJEE,
P. O. Suri, Birbhum Dt., Bengal.

Now Remove Your Skin Eruptions

BY TAKING THE SAME REMEDY

Zemro Blood MIxture is a real blood cleanser, formulated by a Specialist to cleanse the blood of impurities, etc., every time it is taken. It cures pimples, acne, bad skin sores, etc., by removing the impurities causing them. It smashes gout, rheumatism, etc., by freeing the blood and joints of uric acid. It gets rid of leucoderma (white patches) by removing the cause of this disease. That is why Zemro always cures when other remedies fail and why it is the best for you.

Follow the example of thousands of skin and blood sufferers who have cured themselves through Zemro Ignore lesser remedies which will only prove a waste of money. Zemro offers you a sure cure for whatever skin or blood disease you suffer from. Put its efficecy to the test by getting 3 bottles. The good it will do you, will give personal proof that it is a real blood cleanser.

WHEN YOU TAKE ZEMRO YOU ARE ON THE ROAD TO SKIN HEALTH

New improved formula gives wonderful results

1 Bottle	Rs. 5-0-0
3 Bottles	„ 14-8-0
6 Bottles	„ 27-0-0

If you suffer from any skin or blood disease, write for this free booklet—**"How to Cure Skin and Blood Diseases Permanently."** It gives full information and the best way to get a lasting cure.

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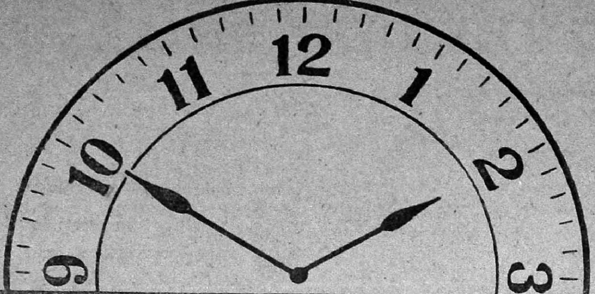

TURN BACK THE HANDS OF TIME

Get back the vigour and strength of your best years

After 40 years of age, sometimes earlier, the glands of your body slows down its manufacture of vital hormones. The result is decreased vigour, reduced vitality, weakness, impaired health, etc.

Vigotone acts directly on the glands of your body and increases their vigour and activity, so that they again produce a full quantity of the hormones needed by the body. Soon your vitality and vigour increases; you feel many years younger and every symptom of weakness disappears. Vigotone is not a temporary stimulant or just another tonic, but a special invigorator for the lasting restoration of vigorous manhood. **It never fails to restore and increase the vital force of the body** and is very good for **loss of vital power, Premature** Aging, **Weakness** and **Debility**.

Try 3 bottles of Vigotone and feel the new vitality and power it puts into you. This will prove to you that it is a real rejuvenator for men.

Read these Testimonials

Mr. J. D. (Calcutta) "......I have taken 12 bottles of vigotone, and I am longer weak and run down. you can publish this if you do not use my name and address........."

Mr. L. W. (Jamshedpur) "......I have obtained real benefit from Vigotone, for it has cured me and given more vigour........."

Mr. V. S. (Bombay.) "......my doctor recommended Vigotone to me, and I have been taking it for the last six weeks with good results."

Free Booklet.

If you have lost vital strength and vigour, or if you have noticed symptoms of weakness, write for our free booklet about Vigotone.

Don't let past failures with useless medicines hold you back from a proper cuse. Take Vigotone and it will increase your vigour week by week until vigorous manhood is restored.

New improved Vigotone gives very good results. Prices:—One bottle Rs. 7.50 Three bottles Rs. 22; Six bottles Rs. 43 and Twelve bottles Rs. 84, postage, etc., extra. We give a free bottle of special Muscula with every six bottles of Vigotone. Also Vigotone for women. Prices as above.

The British Chemical Works,

POST BOX NO. 472, MADRAS-7. India

AND THE DEAF SHALL HEAR

A miraculous operation holds promise of deliverance from the lonely world of deafness

LOIS MATTOX MILLER

THE YOUNG woman in the hospital bed listened intently fascinated by the commonplace sounds that penetrated the heavy bandages swathing her head. The dripdrip drip of the lavatory faucet, a murmur of distant voices, the clattering of the trolley car in the street—these sounds were more beguiling to her than music from another sphere. For the first time in almost 15 years she could *hear.* Skillful surgery had opened a tiny oval window in the bony capsule of her inner ear, readmitting all the magic of the world of sound.

The daring, delicate fenestration operation already has beeu peformed in more than 2,000 cases some as long as seven years ago. These patients have continued under the surveillance of medical experts who doubted that the cure of deafness would last. For the trick is not only to cut the tiny window but also to prevent stubborn Nature from closing in again. Last year a committe of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology conducted an exhaustive investigation of the fenestration technique and its long-range results. Dr. Marvin Johnes reports "My belief six years ago was that the results of the fenestration operation, while dramatic, were not permanent. Recently I have seen patients whose hearing, before operation five years ago, was below the useful range, and who now can hear low whispers."

The human hearing apparatus is extremely complex and surrounded by mystery. Entering sound waves strike the eardrum –a tiny membrane that separates the outer from the middle ear. Attached to the inside of the eardrum is one end of a chain of three tiny bones called (because of their shapes) the hammer, the anvil and the stirrup. They vibrate in sequence. The footplate of the stirrup fits into a bony capsule which separates the middle from the inner ear. Through this window the vibrations of the stirrup are transmitted to the fluid of the inner ear. There impulses touch off a harplike set of auditory nerves and are transmitted finally to the hearing area of the brain.

Things frequently go haywire some—where along the line, resulting in the tragedy of deafness. In young children, for instance, an excessive growth of adenoids may block the Eustachian tube. Removal of the adenoids usually restores normal hearing. At the other end of the life span deafness may be caused by degeneration of the auditory nerve. For this there is no cure.

Between these extremes lies the larger percentage of deaf or partially deaf persons. Their deafness is caused by a disease called otosclerosis. It involves no pain, no middle ear infection, and produces no symptom more alarming than ringing or buzzing in the ears and progressive difficulty in hearing. what happens is that a bony growth slowly closes the tiny window around the stirrup until the footplate is held fast. Thus no vibrations reach the fluid of the inner car. The auditory nerve inside may remain perfectly healthy. But sound never gets through to the nerve for transmission to the brain.

In 1876 a German surgeon. Kessel, made the first attempt to loosen the stirrup from the closed window : deafness vanished immediately, but soon the bony window closed again. Holmgren' a Swedish doctor, sought to keep the window open by inserting a plastic peg, but this set up a foreign body reaction which caused new cell growth and closed the window even more tightly.

Sourdille, a Frenchman, achieved a surgical miracle by delicately folding a flag of skin, as a spiderweb, over the new window to carry vibrations from the eardrum to the inner ear, than operated repeatedly to keep the window open until the "regenerating process of the bone becomes gradually exhausted."

Other surgeons discovered that the bone growth usually started around microscopic splinters made while drilling the window. Using microscopes and delicate swabs, they located and removed every splinter. Even then another factor defeated their efforts: the slightest trace of blood encouraged the growth of new tissue. So these pioneers developed a virtually bloodless operation. But still the tiny window closed.

For all practical purposes the fenestration operation was a failure. Then the mystery of the ever-closing window challenged the imagination of a young ear surgeon, Dr. Julius Lempert. After 12 years of study and clinical work, he was able to report a technique that sounded entirely too good to be true. Where Sourdille and others had operated from behind the ear, Dr. Lempert made his approach directly into the aural cavity Besides leading directly to the middle ear this method involved the cutting of much less tissue. It not only reduced the chances of infection but caused less inflammation, which was one of the chief causes of the tissu regrowth.

Upon reaching the bouy capsule which contains the inner ear mechanism, Dr. Lempert used a tiny dental burr to carve an oval opening—slightly larger than a grain of rice—Just above the old window. Then he used a finc gold burr to smooth and polish the opening—an important factor in preventing bone regeneration. Finally, he cleared away every last fragment of bone splinter.

Seeking a protective substance to line and cover the new opening, Lempert found the very thing he needed—right there along the path to the inner ear. It was a fine, smooth tissue called Shrapnell's membrane—a part of the eardrum Lempert, lifted up this membrane and fixed it in place so that it served both as a windowpane and frame for the new opening.

By 1941, Dr. Lemport had report a new location for the little surgical window, and using this better techinique, by 1943 he had operated on 800 patients. In 70 percent of these cases practical hearing was restored.

But Lempert announced that 70 percent was not good enough. Involved in the failures were complications which he was sure he could remove: inflamation of the labyrinth, damage to the hearing nerve, and the persistent elosing of the window.

In the *Archives of Otolaryngology* for January 1945 he was able to announce to the profession that the last complications had been eliminated. His report contained a startling fact: in order to keep the window open for hearing you must actually close it! To do so he has devised a method closely approximating Nature's own. A small piece of cartilage, taken from the outer ear is shaped and inserted in the new opening, than the thin piece of Sharpnell's membrane is drawn over and made fast. The cartilage stopple serves as new stirrup, capable of transmitting sound vibrations to the inner ear; it also prevents bone formation and possible damage to the auditory nerve.

The perfected fenestration technique has been applied in about 50 cases, with practical hearing restored in all of them. The effects of bringing "stone deaf" people back into the world of sound are dramatic. The young woman whose story begins this article is typical. At 14 she become a problem child—sullen, inattentive, disobident. Examination by the family doctor disclosed that she was hard of hearing. The family sent her from specialist to specialist, until they were

(Continued on page 9)

THE UNIVERSE FROM PALOMAR

A DOZEN BUILDINGS dot Palomar's peak: power-houses that provide electricity and water; cottages for the mechanics; the "monastery," where the astronomers live; the domes of the 48-inch and 18-inch schmidt telescopes. But all these are auxiliary to the master installation—the 240-inch reflector that rests under the gigantic Pantheon-like dome, 135 feet in diameter, 137 feet high. Under this great silvery dome they were readying the 200 inch eye for its night's vigil on the universe.

All day the dome had remained tightly closed to insulate the sensitive giant against solar heat and terrestrial weather. As the sun sank behind a distant mountain, the roof shutters were rolled back, exposing the vast uptilted frame-work of the 60-foot tube. At the same time a bank of electric fans began to whir, directing their breezes against the under-surface of the great mrrior. Ordinarily the outside temperature on the mountain drops to its night minimum a few minutes after sunset, and the fans quickly cool the 15 ton slab of glass to the same level. By the time the last streak of crimson had faded from the west the telescope was poised and waiting, ready to peer millions of years into the past of the stars.

And the stars were waiting too, in dazzing pageantry. Although palomar is 2,300 miles north of the equator, from its elevation the 200-inch mirror can sweep over three quartes of the sky. Only the heavens above the Antarctic Zone are beyond its gaze. Palomar's air is so clear and steady that the stars shine with a brilliance never seen down in valleys, prairies or downs. This starlight Is the principal concern of the astronomers, and they take great pains to keep it uncontaminated. Road lamps and headlights are strickly forbidden on the mountaintop.

When it was fully dark we entered the dome by a door on the ground floor. To pass from the star-studded vault without into the darkness within was blinding, A pocket flash-light disclosed that we were groping among a forest of steel piers--the underpinning of the telescope and its observing floor above. Eventually we reached the lift and a few moments later stepped out on to the observing floor.

It was not so dark here. Starlight was pouring through the open shutter of the dome touching the whole interior with its celestial magic. A soft radiance suffused the massive overshadowing structure of the telescope. Looking up, we saw its tubular frame silhouetted against the Milky Way. Below buried in the base of the telescope, a motor of 1/12 horsepower was slowly turning the tube towards the west, in step with the rotation of the earth. The telescope weights 500 tons, but it swung effortlessly on its oil-padded mounting.

Across the floor, under one of the supporting arms of the telescope yoke, a man sat at a table in the semi-darkness watching hands move round a series of illuminated dials. This was the instrument tender for the night. Seventy feet up in the air, seated in a cage at the open end of the telescope tube, was the observer for the night In the floor of the cage is an aperture that admits the concentrated beam of starlight gatheread by the more than 190 squre feet of flawless mirror below. At the spot where the curvature of the mirror focuses this beam, the observer had exposed a photographic plate. He was watching through the eyepiece and guiding with his fingers on eletric controls to keep the star image centred at the cross hair.

"Thirty seconds to 30," sang out the instrument tender.

" Ready, " answered the observer from his microphone in the cage.

" Twenty-five, " droned the instrument tender, " twenty —fifteen—ten—five—four —three—two—and close ! "

The observe closed the plateholder, removed it and inserted another. Then he called down through the speaker: After we 've taken this one I'll come down for a cup of tea—at 12 o' clock. "

A man assigned a telescope customarily has exclusive use of it for about one week a month as long as his problem requires it. After spending five or six nights photographing his particular spot of the sky, the observer will usually have accumulated more than enough material to keep him busy for the rest of the month analysing and trying to interpret it Besides the two schmidttype telescopes and the 200-inch giant on Palomar mountain, members of the observatory staff have the use of the three solar telescopes and the 60-inch and 100-inch reflectors on nearby Mount Wilson. About the performance of the 200-inch an observe at mount Wilson says " In three reasonably good nights of observation I accomplished what may have taken three years to achieve with the 100-inch telescope.

The men of Palomar are studying the stuff of which the universe is made not only the stars but also the clouds of of cosmic gas and interstellar dust, from which stars are formed. It's a dusty universe. In all the nebulae that have been resolved dust is abundant. And even a small telescope shows many of the nearby dust clouds, such as the dark patches in Orion and the Coalsac near the Southern Cross.

All about us are stars born, it is believed of the cosmic dust. Star explosions are frequent. The Andromeda Nebula continually shows fireworks : in a single year some 15 novae (new stars) were found in its photographs. Novae also flare np frequently in the large spiral in the Big Dipper.

The giant eye also helps to reveal the structure of the universe—the ways in which the stars are organized iuto clusters and other multiple systems, and how those systems are regimented by the millions to form the gigantic rotating pinwheels known as spiral nebulae. The nebulae appear to be different luminosities and sizes, and here and there in remote wildernesses of space groups of nebulae are found associated in clusters. All the members of the group move in the same general direction and at about the same speed. It now seems that these spiral systems are not " island universes, " as was once suggested but are integrated parts of a still larger, all-inclusive structure —the whole universe.

The task of determining the physical properties of the universe and arriving at a picture of the whole cannot be tackled as a single project; it must be broken dawn into specific problems. Palomar's Director explained: We know that the other stars comes from the transformation of hydrogen into helium, a process which takes place in the super-hot stellar cores. We know from spectrographic evidence that calcium, iron and other metals are present in stellar interiors. But we do not know how these metals are created One of the specific problem,s therefore, Is the study of individual stars to determine their temperatures, pressures, magnetic fields, internal motions and chemical components. "

According to the general theory of relativity, the size of the universe is determined by the amount of matter it contains. The number of nebulae in a representative sample of space is thus of critical importance to cosmologists. Mount Wilson's 100-inch telescope is able to photograph as far away as 500 million light-years. Practically all the mankind has found out so far about the remote nebulae we owe to this supreb ins rument. And yet even its reach was not sufficient to stake out a representative sample of the universe.

It was the realization of this limitation that led George Ellery Hale and his associates to plan the 200-inch telescope. The giant on Palomar is able to photograph objects at a distance of 1000 million light years thus doubling the space-penetrating power in every direction and enlarging the volume of the observable region eight fold. There are men at Palomar who hope that by studying this enlarged sample they will be able to draw sound concilusions as to the size structure, camposition and nature of the entire universe.

One of these Palomar optimists admitted "It may be wishful thinking on my part, but I belive we shall find that the sample is significantly large and that from it the type of universe we inhabit can be identified among the long array of possible universes."

He is a veteran investigator of nebulae, now in his 83-rd year-Thirty years ago he began a study of the Great Nebula in Andromeda. Up to that time many had thought that the spiral systems, of which the Andromeda Nebula is one, were simply luminous whirlpools of gas. Turning the 100-inch telescope to an analysis of the Nebula's composition, he found that he could resolve its spiral arms into individual stars. He calculated that it was between 900,000 and one million light-years away.

(Concluded from page 6)

forced to accept the diagnosis: "Otosclerosis, with progressive deafness. No effective reatment.

At 24 she was totally deaf in one ear had only 60 percent hearing in the other, Lip reading helped. Then a hearing aid was fitted. But even those "crutches" failed to compensate for all the disadvantages of the lonely world of the deaf.

Then, last year, her doctor suggested the Lempert operation.

"You have no idea what a thrill it was to here the first sound after that magic window was opened!" she exclaims "One doesn't realize what a noisy werld we live in, Sounds in the night, which the normal person accepts or ignores, would waken me terified. Then when I came to my senses. I would lie there gloating over each one.

THE VICAR'S LIQUORS

The Vicar was very fond liqueurs. his favourite amog them was a particular brand of orange-flavoured nectar to sip with his coffee after dinner.

But liqueurs are a luxury for the clergy, and the Vicar was not able to indulge his harmless but expensive tastes very often. He was mildly complaining about this one day to a well-to-do parishioner, who happened also to be a wine merchant.

"I'll tell you what I'll do, vicar," said the parishioner, "If it would please you I'll send you a whole case of that liqueur as a little token of my regard. but I make one stipulation you must publicly acknowledge the gift in the parish Magazine!"

After a moment's thought the vicar gratefully accepted his friends's suggestien.

"It's very kind of you," he said, "and I'll certainly put an acknowledgment in next month's issue!"

The wine merchant eagerly scanned his parish magazine the next month. on page one a notice in the largest type immediately met his eye.

"The vicar," said the noticc, "wishes thankfully to acknowledge the generous gift of a case of fruit, and the spirit in which it was sent......"

—Michael Thomas in *The Queen*.

THE GRIM ALLIGATOR

Facts and stories about one of Nature's oddities

BY ARCHIBALD RUTLEDGE

IT is doubtful if Longfellow ever saw an alligator, yet there could be no happier epithet for the western hemisphear's greatest saurian than the New England poet's "the grim alligator.

This strange reptile is found as far northas North Carolina. Since boyhood days I have observed him chiefly in the lagoons and rivers near my plantation home in South Carolina Despite his grimness, his savage strength, his sinister stealth, his treachery, he has perhaps some redeeming features—at any rate, he is always interesting, a living represntation of the earth.

The term of an alligator's natural life equals or exceeds that of Man. I should say that an alligator does rot reach maximum size under 20 years; and lives on with easy ind finiteness. He becomes more rusty and crusty, both in appearance and in temper. He is likely to haunt one arm of a lagoon or bend of a river, and hold his domain against all comers, He develops uncommon sagacity; his senses. especially hearing' becoming keener with age. The largest alligator I ever saw measured 16 ft. 9 in. and weighed abont 1,400 pounds. The canine tusks of this great bull were four inches long.

Another bnll that I measured was 14 feet. This monster had met a most strange and terrible fate; and the mystery of it I have not solved to this day. I came upon him one December day, deep in the fragrant heart of a great game preserve. He had evidently come out of a lagoon, intending to crawl to a marsh a few hundred yards distant. But disaster had overtaken him. He was lying in a little arena ringed by great yellow pines Something had done him to death. Both eyes were gone, and his entire body bore innumerable bruise sand deep slashes. One leg was broken. The space in which he lay had been torn and trampled by the fury of the combatants, and it was not an easy thing to decide just what had attacked him. A herd of razorback hogs could have done it. Of all the denizens of tha lonely pine lands, these creatures are in d sense, the most dangerous. In a herd they may attack almost any living thing; and their mob power is irresistible. With a non-chalance they will wade into anything. I have seen one kill and eat with the utmost unconcern a seven-foot dismond-back rattle-snake.

A crowd of these hyena-like creatures must have attacked the old bull on his overland journey; and in their butchery of him they employed a needless and devilish mutilation which may or may not have manifested a kind of vengeance for the heavy toil he had taken for years on the whole race of razorback hogs in the preserve.

While the hog is one of the commonest victims of the alligator, the dog is perhaps the favourite, Any dog that swims in alligator-infested waters is doomed. So avid is the alligator's appetite for all things canine that it is easy to call His Barbarous Majesty to you. Just go quickly to the edge of a lagoon and bark like a dog treeing a squirril. The imitation does not even have to be exact to be exact to bring result.

Other victims are fish, wild ducks, deer and nearly all kinds of stock. I have known an, allogtor to kill and devour a cow. Her fate become known to me in a peculiar manner. When she disappeared in the autumn she was wearing a small brass bell. The nature of her fate become evident to me only when upon killing a great bull alligator the following spring, I found the bell in his stomach.

The throat of an alligator is so small that he does not immedtately devour his larger forms of prey. He secretes them in: some nosisome lair until decays sets in; them he tears them apart and eats them piece-meal Like most predatory wild creatures, the alligator is strongly cannibalisatic, and devours the young of his own kind.

HOW TO SWALLOW A SWORD

If children scream and women faint, your act is a sure fire success

By The Great ZADMA

198407

I SHALL never forget the first time I swallowed a lighted, two-foot neon tube. the tube was aboot-legged one. like all neons usedby sword swallowers at that time., because the electrical companies wouldn't allow anyone to buy a tube if they knew he intended to swallow it. several sword swallowers hadbeen killed by the tubes breaking inside of them, and the companies felt it was bad publicity,

Neon swallowing really has a lovely effect. all the lights are turned off except the tube itself, and then the artist, stripped to waist, swallows it to the hilt. Almost instantly the light is glowing out through the body of the artist. The effect is indescribably weird. Usually several people faint, and this makes the trick very popular.

I wanted desperately to be a neon swallower. At the time I was working with a carnival and living in the side-show's truck with Flamo, the fire eater. One night while we were playing Ternton. New Jersey, he located an electrician Who said he would make me up a couple of tubes. With neons you must have an electrical connection at both ends of the tube before the gas inside will light. For swallowing, therefore, the tubes are U-shaped and the ends stick out of your mouth. This means swallowing double tube, which is naturally much harder than swallowing a thin sword blade, and so the tube has to be made as thin as possible, The thin tubes are brittle and likely to break.

Flamo and I picked up the tubes one evening after our last show. But when we had them lit and ready to swallew I got nervous.

"Flamo, I'm getting scared," I told him.

We had just been reading in *The Billboard* of the death of Prince Neon, the first neon swallower. The tube had broken inside of him. The Human Electic Light Bulb, who had followed him, had got a short cireuit somehow and died before he was carried off the pletform. The game hardly seemed worth while.

"Well, if you 're scared, kid, I wouldn't swallow "em," Flamo urged, "your throat 'll tighten upand snap the tube,"

I knew if I were going to swallow them I 'd have to do it at once. before they got too hot. A hot tube will stick to your insides and can't withdraw it. So I picked up a tube and wiped it.

I stood with my head thrown back and the tube held straight up from my lips with my right hand. With my cupped left I guided it down by throat. The basic principle of sword swallowing is to e tablish a straight line from the throat to the stomach. As the tube slid down, it was pleasantly warm, unlike the chill of steel, but terribly wide.

I felt it strike my breastbone. This is always a creepy feeling. It sends a shudder all through you. Then the tip of the tube slipped off the bone and glided down smoothy until my right hand touched my lips.

I withdrew the tube and turned to Flamo. "Did it shine through my chest?" I asked eagerly.

"Son, you shone like a bonfire," he assured me respectfully. "It's a wonderful act. I was darned near taken sick myself"

The next night I performed with the neon tube, and the act was a sensation. Two women had to be carried out, and the parents of a child who had been frightened into hysteries sued the show. My reputation was made.

Most sword swallowers were once "carny punks"—young poys who have, run away from home to join a travelling carnival. For a while a punk hangs around the lot, running errands for the

performers, helping the joint men set up their concessions. Soon he wants to learn an act. He can't be a freak. He can't afford the elaborate apparatus for an aerial act. He hasn't the ability to be a talker or a gambler So he becomes a sword swallower.

I have often been asked why anyone wants to be a sword swallower. Well, in a carnival a sword swallower is an artist who is properly respected. It is an art which everyone would like to known but few have the patience to learn.

The performer's swords cost him only Rs. 45 or Rs. 60, and if he doesn't like the carnival he can tuck them under his arm and hop a freight to the next show. Or he can give shows in bar rooms or on streets corners for dimes. He is absolutely free and can always get a pocketful of change for a few minutes' work.

Learning to be a sword swallower takes about ihree or four months of hard practice. First, find out how long a sword you are able to swallow. Swallow a very long sword slowly and carefully until you feel the tip touch the pit of your stomach. Stop. there Feeling the blade touch is a sensation difficult to describe, but you'll know when it happens. Then mark the blade just above your teeth. Withdraw it, cut it off right there, and you have your sword. When you start the sword down your throat for the first time, you will probably be sick. This will keep up for several months until your throat gets used to the feel of coldsteel. Naturally atall man can swallow a longer sword than a short man. Being quite tall, I held the American record for the longest sword swallowed (26 inches) for many years. The record was taken from me by a shorter man who resorted to the device of eating a heavy meal just before the test, which weighed down his stomach the additional few inches he needed to win. I leave it to the reader to decide whether such a trick is legitimate.

No one knows who was the first to discover he could swallow a sword, but he must have been an unusual personality with a flair for experimentation. Travelling jugglers performed the trick for the Pharaohs, and Agrippa mentions seeing it in ancient Rome.

Sword swallowing first become famous in America at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. For years afterward it was being "exposed" in news papers and magazines. The usual explanation was that the sword folded up into its hilt. I used to carry around a straight blade without a hit and swallow that to convince people. This blade was finally broken by a young man in his efforts to find something wrong with it. Later I heard him say: 'That sword folded up. I could found out now, but it busted on me. There are several variations to the regular routine. One friend of mine swallows redhot swords by first swallowing an asbestos scappard. But the presence of the scabbard is asecret and it is surprisingly difficult to walk around with a scabbard inside of you without looking awkward.

In the last few years there has been an epidemic of female sword swallowers. I don't approve of it. Women are likely to take chances. I saw a girl who swallowed a sword with a tin blade and then twisted around until the blade was bent inside her before she withdrew it. I don't care if she was drawing down Rs. 300 a week for this act. It was dangerous.

A girl who featured neon swallowing appeared in Ripley's Believe. It or not show at the New York World's Fair, she be formed on a revolving stage. and I was surprised that she dared to swallow the tubes, as even slight vibrations of the stage might crack one. After going through the usual rcutine, she produced a tube mounted on the stock of a rifle. She swallowed the tube halfway and then fired off the rifle, so that the kick of the gun drove the neon the rest of the way down her throat.

I rushed out of the hall in a panic while the audience howled with laughter at me. As I staggered past the last row a man stopped me. "guess you think that girl really swallowed them tubes, don't you?" he said, Then in a low voice he added, "I'll tell you a secret. Then tubes are faked, They fold up into the handles."

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